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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4370
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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAA/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 7890
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 0272
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 6209
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 8481
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 1571
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3428
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UNCLAS TOKYO 001369

SIPDIS

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CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - BURMA

11. LEAD STORIES: Top stories on Tuesday morning included a government panel report on the national pension system predicting that the consumption tax rate

would have to be raised from the current 5% to up to 18% in order for the basic pension system to be funded only through taxes.

12. "Burma to Accept Medical Teams from ASEAN" The liberal Mainichi's report from Bangkok said (5/20): ". . . . Burmese Foreign Minister Nyan Win expressed during a foreign ministerial held in Singapore on Monday his nation's readiness to accept medical teams from ASEAN nations. Whether or not to receive personnel

from nations outside ASEAN will be discussed later by ASEAN members. . . . However, it remains unclear whether the decision to accept medical teams from ASEAN

would lead to Rangoon's receiving of personnel from the

U.S. and European nations. . . . The Burmese junta's concession to ASEAN appears to be aimed at avoiding additional pressure from the international community and preventing Rangoon from further isolating."

13. "Junta Aims at Excluding U.S. and Europe from International Emergency Relief Scheme" The moderate Yomiuri's Bangkok correspondent argued (5/20): "The Burmese junta agreed during the ASEAN ministerial held in Singapore on Monday to host a meeting to be jointly arranged by ASEAN and the UN regarding international support for cyclone-hit Burma. Rangoon's move appears to be intended to create a framework, in which the

nation will receive foreign aid under the junta's control. ASEAN's role in bridging between Burma and the

international community will be important. . . . The junta has accepted visits of EU and UN officials for the past week to demonstrate to the global community its 'pseudo tolerance.' The move was aimed at deflecting criticism from the UN, the U.S., and European nations about Rangoon's rejection of relief teams."

SCHIEFFER